Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device ~~for~~ configured to:

selectively ~~initiating~~ initiate execution of a software application by one of:

the first computing device if a state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device is a first state; and

the second computing device if the state is a second state, the software application being associable with one or more software objects.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the software application is a socket-based application.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the state is a synchronized state of at least the first and second computing devices.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the state includes information for identifying a group of software applications executed by the first and second computing devices.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the state indicates whether the software application has an associated listening socket.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the software application is a first software application, and wherein the first computing device is ~~for:~~

configured to, in response to execution of the first software application and the state, selectively ~~initiating~~ initiate execution of a second software application by the second computing device.

7. (Currently Amended) An information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device ~~for~~ configured to:

~~executing~~ execute a software application that is associated with at least one software object; and

in response to a request for initiating execution of the software object, independent of the software application, selectively ~~initiating~~ initiate execution of the software object by one of:

the first computing device if a state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device is a first state; and

the second computing device if the state is a second state.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 7 wherein the software application is a socket-based application.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 7 wherein the state is a synchronized state of at least the first and second computing devices.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 7 wherein the first computing device is configured to coordinate ~~for coordinating~~ a communication of information between the software application and the software object, even if the software object is executed by the second computing device.

11. (Original) A method performed by a first computing device of an information processing system, the method comprising:

selectively initiating execution of a software application by one of:

the first computing device if a state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device is a first state; and

the second computing device if the state is a second state, the software application being associable with one or more software objects.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the software application is a socket-based application.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the state is a synchronized state of at least the first and second computing devices.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the state includes information for identifying a group of software applications executed by the first and second computing devices.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the state indicates whether the software application has an associated listening socket.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the software application is a first software application, and further comprising~~wherein the method comprises~~:

in response to execution of the first software application and the state, selectively initiating execution of a second software application by the second computing device.

17. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a first computing device of an information processing system, ~~the method~~ comprising:

executing a software application that is associated with at least one software object; and

in response to a request for initiating execution of the software object, independent of the software application, selectively initiating execution of the software object by one of:

the first computing device if a state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device is a first state; and

the second computing device if the state is a second state.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17 wherein the software application is a socket-based application.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the state is a synchronized state of at least the first and second computing devices.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17, comprising ~~wherein the method comprises~~:

coordinating a communication of information between the software application and the software object, even ~~if~~ when the software object is executed by the second computing device.

21. (New) A server farm for processing client requests, comprising:

a first server comprising:

a first processor; and

a first network interface controller communicatively coupled to the first processor; and

a second server comprising a second processor and communicatively coupled to the first server, wherein the first network interface controller is configured to:

maintain a state table associated with at least the first server and the second server; and

respond to receipt of a request packet from a client by:

initiating by the first processor execution of a software application associated with the request packet when the state table corresponds to a first state; and

selectively forwarding the request packet to the second server when the state table corresponds to a second state.

22. (New) The server farm of claim 21 wherein the first network interface controller is further configured to respond to a request packet that specifies a connection with the first server by initiating by the first processor execution of the software application associated with the request packet.

23. (New) The server farm of claim 21 wherein the second server comprises a second network interface controller communicatively coupled to the second processor and configured to:

maintain a copy of the state table associated with at least the first server and the second server; and

respond to receipt of a request packet associated with a client by:

initiating by the second processor execution of the software application associated with the request packet when the state table corresponds to the second state; and

selectively forwarding the request packet to the first server when the state table corresponds to the first state.

24. (New) The server farm of claim 21, further comprising a third server comprising a third processor and communicatively coupled to the first and second servers, wherein the state table is further associated with the third server and the first network interface controller is further configured to respond to a request packet from a client by selectively forwarding the request packet to the third server when the state table corresponds to a third state.

25. (New) The server farm of Claim 21 wherein the software application is a socket-based application.

26. (New) The server farm of Claim 21 wherein the state table is associated with a synchronized state of the first and second servers.

27. (New) The server farm of Claim 21 wherein the software application is a first software application associated with the first server and the state table is associated with the first software application and a second software application associated with the second server.

28. (New) The server farm of Claim 21 wherein the state table is further associated with an indication of whether the software application has an associated listening socket.

29. (New) The server farm of Claim 21 wherein the software application is a first software application, and wherein the first network interface controller is further configured to selectively initiate execution by the second server of a second software application in response to execution of the first software application when the state table corresponds to a third state.

30. (New) A server farm for processing client requests, comprising:

means for executing a first software application; and

means for distributing a client request based at least in part on a state of the means for executing a first software application.

31. (New) The server farm of claim 30 wherein the means for executing a first software application comprises a plurality of servers and the means for distributing a client request comprises a corresponding plurality of network interface controllers each associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of servers.

32. (New) The server farm of claim 30, further comprising means for executing a second software application, wherein the means for distributing a client request is

configured to distribute a client request based at least in part on a state of the means for executing a second software application.

33. (New) The server farm of claim 32 wherein the means for executing a first software application comprises a first server, the means for executing a second software application comprises a second server and the means for distributing a client request comprises a first network interface controller associated with the first server and a second network interface controller associated with the second server.

34. (New) The server farm of claim 30 wherein the state of the means for executing a first software application corresponds to a synchronization state.

35. (New) The server farm of Claim 30 wherein the state of the means for executing a first software application corresponds to an indication of whether the software application has an associated listening socket.